

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously presented) A damped flexible cable as recited in claim 17 or 18 wherein the vibration damping material is completely enclosed within the insulation, and wherein end portions of the electrically conductive lead are exposed.
3. (Previously presented) A damped flexible cable as recited in claim 17 or 18 wherein the vibration damping material includes first and second layers disposed at opposite sides of the electrically conductive lead.
4. (currently amended) A damped flexible cable as recited in claim 17 or 18 further comprising a plurality of electrically conductive ~~leads-a~~ leads, a portion of which are parallel to one another.
5. (cancelled)
6. (cancelled).
7. (Previously presented) A damped flexible cable as recited in claim 17 or 18 wherein the damping material covers an area at least ½ the area of the flexible cable.
8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).
10. (currently amended) A head suspension assembly for use in a magnetic recording device comprising:
a suspension;
a magnetic transducer connected with the suspension; and
a flexible cable electrically connected with the transducer, the flexible cable further comprising:
an electrically conductive lead;
a vibration damping material disposed adjacent to the electrical lead; and
an insulating material surrounding the vibration damping material and at least a portion of the electrical lead wherein the vibration damping material is configured with relatively wider portions where additional damping is needed and relatively narrower portions elsewhere; and wherein the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 the area of the flexible cable.
11. (currently amended) A magnetic hard disk drive, comprising:
a housing;
a magnetic disk rotationally mounted within the housing;
an amplifier circuit; and
a flexible cable electrically connected with the amplifier circuit, the flexible cable further comprising:
an electrically conductive lead;
a vibration damping material disposed adjacent to the electrical lead; and
an insulating material surrounding the vibration damping material and at least a portion of the electrical lead wherein the vibration damping material is configured with relatively wider portions where additional

damping is needed and relatively narrower portions elsewhere; and wherein the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 the area of the flexible cable.

12. (currently amended) A flexible cable for use in a magnetic memory device, comprising:
 - a first layer of electrically insulating material;
 - a second layer of electrically insulating material;
 - an electrical lead; and
 - a vibration damping material;wherein the electrical lead and the vibration damping material are sandwiched between the first and second layer of electrically insulating material and wherein the vibration damping material is configured with relatively wider portions where additional damping is needed and relatively narrower portions elsewhere; and wherein the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 the area of the flexible cable.
13. (Withdrawn) A method for constructing a flexible cable, comprising:
 - providing a first layer of electrically insulating material;
 - forming an electrically conductive lead;
 - forming a layer of vibration damping material;
 - applying a second layer of electrically insulating material opposite the first layer of insulating material so as to sandwich the electrically conductive lead and the vibration damping material between the first and second layers of electrically insulating material; and
 - applying pressure to the first and second electrically insulating layers.
14. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to at least one of the first an second layers of insulating material.

15. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of applying an adhesive to at least one of the first and second layers of insulating material.
16. (Withdrawn) A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising the step of forming a second layer of vibration damping material at a side of the lead opposite the first layer of vibration damping material.
17. (currently amended) A damped flexible cable for use in a magnetic memory device, comprising:
an electrically conductive lead;
a vibration damping material disposed adjacent to the electrical lead; and
an insulating material surrounding the vibration damping material and at least a portion of the electrical lead, wherein the vibration damping material is configured to be relatively wider in areas wherein more damping is required and relatively narrower elsewhere; and wherein the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 the area of the flexible cable.
18. (currently amended) A damped flexible cable for use in a magnetic memory device, comprising:
an electrically conductive lead;
a vibration damping material disposed adjacent to the electrically conductive lead; and
an insulating material surrounding the vibration damping material and at least a portion of the electrically conductive lead, wherein the vibration damping material is configured to be relatively thicker in areas wherein more damping is required and relatively thinner elsewhere; and wherein the damping material covers an area at least 1/3 the area of the flexible cable.